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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII

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|--|---------------------------------|
| SEAN STOVER, CASSANDRA |) Case No. _____ |
| FAIRALL, MARK PREVOT, EVA |) |
| MARIE ADAM, and RANDY BROCK, |) |
| individually and on behalf of the Class of |) |
| all other persons similarly situated, |) |
| |) |
| Plaintiffs, |) CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT |
| |) and SUMMONS |
| vs. |) |
| |) |
| COUNTY OF MAUI; MAUI EMER- |) |
| GENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY |) |
| ("MEMA"); RICHARD T. |) |
| BISSSEN JR., in his capacity as "emer- |) |
| gency worker" of MEMA; HERMAN |) |
| ANDAYA, in his capacity as "emergency |) |
| worker" of MEMA; MAUI |) |
| DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND PUBLIC |) |
| SAFETY; HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC |) |
| INDUSTRIES, INC.; HAWAIIAN |) |
| ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC.; |) |

HAWAII ELECTRIC LIGHT)
COMPANY, INC.; MAUI ELECTRIC)
COMPANY, LIMITED; ELLIOT)
KAWAIHO'OLANA MILLS, CRYSTAL)
KAUILANI ROSE, JENNIFER)
NOELANI GOODYEAR-KA'OPUA,)
MICHELLE KA'UHANE, and ROBERT)
K.W.H. NOBRIGA, in their capacities as)
TRUSTEES OF THE ESTATE OF)
BERNICE PAUAHI BISHOP; JV)
ENTERPRISES, LLC; and DOE)
DEFENDANTS 1-100,)
)
Defendants.)
_____)

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs SEAN STOVER, CASSANDRA FAIRALL, MARK PREVOT, EVA MARIE ADAM, and RANDY BROCK, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, by and through their undersigned attorneys, SAMUEL P. KING, JR. and RUSSEL MYRICK (pro hac vice pending), hereby state for their causes of action against Defendants COUNTY OF MAUI ("MAUI"); MAUI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ("MEMA"); RICHARD T. BISSEN JR. ("BISSEN"), in his capacity as "emergency worder" of MEMA; HERMAN ANDAYA ("ANDAYA"), in his capacity as "emergency worder" of MEMA; MAUI DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY ("MFD"); HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES, INC. ("HEI"); HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC. ("HECO"); HAWAII ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY, INC. ("HELCO");

MAUI ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED (“MECO”); ELLIOT KAWAIHO’OLANA MILLS, CRYSTAL KAUILANI ROSE, JENNIFER NOELANI GOODYEAR-KA’OPUA, MICHELLE KA’UHANE, and ROBERT K.W.H. NOBRIGA, in their capacities as TRUSTEES OF THE ESTATE OF BERNICE PAUAHI BISHOP (“BISHOP ESTATE”); JV ENTERPRISES, LLC (“JV ENTERPRISES”); and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-100 (“DOE DEFENDANTS”), as follows:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. The August 8, 2023, Lahaina wildfire tragedy (sometimes referred to herein as “the Lahaina wildfire”) should never have happened. The Lahaina wildfire was NOT an Act of God, nor an unforeseen accident. In fact, the possibility of the Lahaina wildfire disaster had been accurately and timely predicted by Red Flag Warnings and High Wind Watches issued by the National Weather Service (“NWS”) on August 6, 7, & 8, 2023. The Lahaina fire was also a repeat of the August 24, 2018, Kaua’ula Valley wildfire (“2018 Kaua’ula wildfire”) which burned 2,000 acres, destroyed 21 structures, including 13 homes, and displaced 60 residents of Kaua’ula Valley. The Lahaina wildfire was 100% totally preventable, and could have easily and instantly been averted by the exercise of ordinary care, prudence, personal responsibility and due diligence by all the named Defendants above.

The fire was caused initially by the grossly negligent acts and omissions of MAUI, MEMA, BISSEN, and ANDAYA, which or who all had actual historical notice of negligence stemming from the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire, and/or the actual contemporary and prescient notice by Red Flag Warnings issued by NWS beginning on August 6, 2023, which, if acted upon, would have prevented the catastrophic wildfire and displacement and other damages alleged herein suffered by Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs. BISSEN’s and ANDAYA’s violations of the emergency management law, Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) Chapter 127A, including their grossly negligent failure to preemptively shut off electric power during Red Flag Warning conditions, were substantial factors in causing the Lahaina wildfire. BISSEN and ANDAYA were emergency workers for MEMA, an agency of MAUI.

MFD’s negligent failure to post a fire watch at the burn site during Red Flag Warning conditions, thereby allowing and causing the Lahaina wildfire flare-up, was a substantial factor in causing the Lahaina wildfire.

The negligent failure of MECO, HECO, HELCO, and HEI (collectively referred to hereinafter in this Class Action Complaint as the “HEI Defendants”) to de-energize lines during Red Flag Warning conditions, and/or clear combustible vegetation from its rights-of-way, and/or to prevent infrastructure failure, were substantial factors in causing the Lahaina wildfire.

BISHOP ESTATE's and JV ENTERPRISES' ("PRIVATE LANDOWNERS") negligent failures to prevent fire from spreading to adjacent properties, including Lahaina's homes and businesses, by clearing, and/or maintaining the highly combustible vegetation on their lands, were substantial factors in causing the Lahaina wildfire.

By this Class Action Complaint, Plaintiffs bring claims for payment of general and special damages arising out of Plaintiffs' wrongful and forcible displacement from their Lahaina residences which were rendered uninhabitable by the Lahaina wildfire including damages and injury to persons, inconvenience, loss of use, relocation expenses, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and past and future loss of income. By this Class Action Complaint, Plaintiffs also bring these claims for the aforementioned damages and injury to persons on behalf of thousands of similarly situated individuals ("Class Plaintiffs") who also resided in Lahaina on August 8, 2023, and whose residences were also rendered uninhabitable by the Lahaina wildfire, especially those who have no other means to obtain relief or compensation for their terrible and lifetime losses.

2. This Class Action Complaint invokes diversity jurisdiction and the supplemental jurisdiction of this Court, to consider claims under Hawaii law on

behalf of Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs for payment of general and special damages arising out of wrongful and forcible displacement from their residences which were rendered uninhabitable by the Lahaina wildfire, including damages and injury to persons as alleged above. Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs assert these Hawaii claims pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. 1332(d).

3. This Class Action Complaint alleges that BISSEN and ANDAYA had actual knowledge of the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire which scorched 2,800 acres, destroyed 21 structures, including 13 homes, and displaced 60 residents and almost devastated Lahaina town. They knew exactly what the problems were which caused the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire, including lack of notice to MECO to shut off electric power in power lines, lack of a shut off system for power lines at risk during high winds, lack of an emergency alert for cell phones, lack of warning sirens, lack of water for firefighters, lack of an evacuation plan, and lack of a brush abatement program. Pursuant to HRS §127A-5(a)(b), BISSEN, who was inaugurated as Mayor of Maui County on January 2, 2023, became an “emergency worker” pursuant the HRS Chapter 127A and “had direct responsibility for emergency management within the county, including the organization, administration, and operation of a county emergency management agency,” and had the duty “to perform emergency

management functions within the territorial limits of the county.” HRS 127A-11(a). Although BISSEN had eight months after the date of his inauguration as Mayor of Maui County to perform emergency management functions to prepare for and protect Lahaina from the Lahaina wildfire, his conscious indifference to the consequences of a devastating repeat of the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire was egregious and outrageous, and constituted gross negligence and/or recklessness pursuant to HRS 127A-9(a)(5).

ANDAYA was appointed as MEMA Director in 2017, and for over five years prior to the Lahaina wildfire, had the power, pursuant to HRS 127A-11(a)(3), “to perform emergency management functions” to prevent and protect Lahaina from the Lahaina wildfire. ANDAYA’s conscious indifference to the consequences of a devastating repeat of the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire was egregious and outrageous, and constituted gross negligence and/or recklessness pursuant to HRS 127A-9(a)(5).

BISSEN’s and ANDAYA’s acts and omissions as set forth above were substantial factors in causing Plaintiffs’ and Class Plaintiffs’ damages and injury to persons including wrongful and forcible displacement, inconvenience, loss of use, relocation expenses, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and past and future loss of income.

BISSEN’s untimely issuance of an Emergency Proclamation on August 8, 2023, and his Maui Lawsuit (referenced below) against MECO filed August 24, 2023,

are also admissions of his liability for gross negligence and/or recklessness and clear and convincing evidence of his liability for punitive damages for gross negligence and/or recklessness, as follows:

a. On August 8, 2023, at 8:00 p.m., BISSEN issued an Emergency Proclamation LONG AFTER the Lahaina wildfire had already forcibly displaced 12,000 residents. The Emergency Proclamation stated, in part, that it was intended to “mitigate hazardous situations in advance of the weather effects from Hurricane Dora,” and that the Director of the Maui Emergency Management Agency is directed to take appropriate actions to direct MECO to “shut off . . . electric power connections.”

The untimely Emergency Proclamation is an admission of his liability for gross negligence and/or recklessness and clear and convincing evidence of his liability for punitive damages for gross negligence and/or recklessness which corroborates Plaintiffs’ and Class Plaintiffs’ claims that BISSEN’s failure to “mitigate hazardous situations in advance of the weather effects from Hurricane Dora” by directing MECO to “shut off . . . electric power connections” constitutes gross negligence and/or recklessness.

b. On August 24, 2023, BISSEN filed a lawsuit in the Second Circuit Court of the State of Hawaii, denominated as *County of Maui v. Maui Electric Company*,

Ltd., et. al., Civ. No. 2CCV-23-238 (“Maui Lawsuit”), which alleges at paragraphs 102-107, that MECO’s failure to “deenergize its power lines during the High Wind Watch and Red Flag Warnings, before the ignition of the Lahaina wildfire constituted “gross negligence.” The Maui Lawsuit is also a judicial admission of BISSEN’s liability for gross negligence and/or recklessness and clear and convincing evidence of his liability for punitive damages for gross negligence and/or recklessness which corroborates Plaintiffs’ and Class Plaintiffs’ claim that BISSEN’s failure to direct MECO to “shut off . . . electric power connections” before the ignition of the Lahaina wildfire also constitutes gross negligence and/or recklessness.

4. BISSEN and ANDAYA are “emergency workers” pursuant to HRS 127A-8(a) and “county employees” pursuant to HRS 127A-8(c). BISSEN’s and ANDAYA’s gross negligence and/or recklessness as set forth above render them civilly liable to Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs for damages and injury to persons pursuant to HRS 127A-9(5). As “county employees,” BISSEN and ANDAYA are entitled to indemnification by MAUI pursuant to HRS 127A-8(b), and under the doctrine of *respondeat superior*.

5. This Class Action Complaint also alleges that the MFD, an agency of MAUI, negligently returned to the station after initially declaring the fire to be “extinguished” on the morning of August 8, 2023, without posting a fire watch at the

burn site at Ku'ialua Street and Ho'okahua Place while Red Flag Warning conditions were still in effect on August 8, 2023. Accordingly, when the fire flared up due to Red Flag conditions shortly after MFD left the burn site, the lack of a fire watch allowed the fire to burn out-of-control and spread rapidly to many acres of dry and highly combustible vegetation causing a huge conflagration, which destroyed thousands of Lahaina residences and wrongfully and forcibly displaced thousands of residents, including Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs.

6. This Class Action Complaint also alleges that HEI, HECO, HELCO, and MECO ("HEI Defendants"): 1) negligently failed to preemptively de-energize the power lines in Lahaina during Red Flag conditions; 2) failed to regularly clear and manage the dry highly combustible vegetation accumulated in their rights-of-way (which vegetation was ignited by a fallen energized power line on August 8, 2023, causing a fire which spread rapidly to adjacent lands); and 3) negligently designed, maintained or operated the electric infrastructure in the Lahaina area, and that these negligent acts and omissions were substantial factors in causing damages to Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs as alleged above in this Class Action Complaint..

7. This Class Action Complaint also alleges that PRIVATE LANDOWNERS negligently failed to regularly clear and manage the hundreds of acres of dry highly combustible vegetation accumulated on their fallow agricultural lands in the Lahaina

area, which caught fire on August 8, 2023, as alleged above, and that the fire spread rapidly to adjacent properties, thereby causing a huge conflagration igniting and destroying about 3,900 homes and structures in Lahaina and forcibly displacing and causing damages to 12,000 Lahaina residents, including Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs..

8. As alleged below, DOE DEFENDANTS 1-100 are Defendants presently unknown to Plaintiffs who are in some manner responsible for the damages caused to Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

9. Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs hereby demand trial by jury of all issues so triable herein.

JURISDICTION

10. Jurisdiction of this Court is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Sec. 1332(d)(2) & (d)(5)(B) (“Class Action Fairness Act” or “CAFA”) because Class Plaintiffs contains more than 100 members, Plaintiffs and Defendant are minimally diverse (at least one Plaintiff is not a citizen of Hawaii and at least one Defendant is a citizen of Hawaii), and the amount in controversy exceeds \$5 million. Also, none of the mandatory or discretionary CAFA exceptions to jurisdiction apply to this Class Action Complaint – that is, none of the Defendants in this action are States, State

officials, or other governmental entities against whom the district court may be foreclosed from ordering relief (none of the Maui Defendants qualifies pursuant to this exception) (28 USC 1332(d)(5)(A)), this is not the first class action filed in relation to the Lahaina wildfire (28 USC 1332(d)(4)(A)(ii)), and at least one of the primary Defendants is not a Hawaii citizen (28 USC 1332(d)(3)). Finally, this Court has already ruled in its Order filed on April 5, 2024, in the *Naki* (Civ. No. 23-435), *Burnes* (Civ. No. 23-452), and *Eder* (Civ. No. 23-459) Class Actions regarding damages related to the Lahaina wildfire which were removed to this Court that abstention is not appropriate pursuant to *Colorado River Water Conservation Dist. v. United States*, 424 U.S. 800 (1976).

VENUE

11. Venue is proper in the District of Hawaii pursuant to 28 USC 1391(b) as the claims set forth in this Class Action Complaint arose in this District on the island of Maui, State of Hawaii.

PARTIES

A. PLAINTIFFS

12. SEAN STOVER

Plaintiff SEAN STOVER (“STOVER”) is presently a citizen of the State of Oregon living in Bend, Oregon. On the date of the Lahaina wildfire, he rented an

apartment in Lahaina at the Spinnaker Apartments located at 760 Waihehi Street which burnt down in the Lahaina wildfire. While living in Lahaina, STOVER was bartending at the Sly Mongoose, located at 1036 Limahana Pl #3h, and at Amigos located at 658 Front St #145A. Both restaurants burned down in the Lahaina wildfire.

STOVER lost everything in the Lahaina wildfire. As a result of the Lahaina fire, STOVER has suffered damages and injury to his person including wrongful and forcible displacement, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income. Maui was his home. He is distraught and suffering from depression and wants to return to Lahaina but is unable to do so because he has no home and no job in Lahaina.

13. CASSANDRA FAIRALL

Plaintiff CASSANDRA FAIRALL (“FAIRALL”) is presently a citizen of the State of Oregon living in Bend, Oregon. On the date of the Lahaina wildfire, she rented an apartment in Lahaina at the Spinnaker Apartments located at 760 Waihehi Street which burnt down. FAIRALL was a server at Cheeseburger in Paradise located at 811 Front St. which also burned down in the Lahaina wildfire. FAIRALL lost everything in the Lahaina wildfire.

As a result of the Lahaina wildfire, Plaintiff FAIRALL has suffered damages and injury to her person including wrongful and forcible displacement, severe mental

anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income. Maui was her home. She is distraught and suffering from depression and wants to return to Lahaina but is unable to do so because she has no home and no job in Lahaina.

14. MARK PREVOT

Plaintiff MARK PREVOT (“PREVOT”) is presently a citizen of the State of Hawaii living at the Hyatt in Ka’anapali. As of August 8, 2023, he had been renting a house in Lahaina at 390 Kauwala St., Lahaina, for eleven years. He was working at the Lahaina Yacht Club as a bar manager. On August 8, 2023, he got up about 7 a.m. and went to work at 8 a.m. As there was no power, he went back home. At about 2:30-3:00 p.m., he first saw smoke. Within 15-20 minutes, the fire reached him and destroyed his house and truck. Several of his neighbors died in the fire. PREVOT lost all his belonging in the fire.

As a result of the Lahaina fire, PREVOT has suffered damages and injury to his person including wrongful and forcible displacement, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income. Maui was his home. He is distraught and suffering from depression and wants to return to Lahaina but is unable to do so because he has no home and no job in Lahaina.

15. EVA MARIA ADAM

Plaintiff **EVA MARIA ADAM (“ADAM”)** is a single mother with two daughters, 9 and 7, who is presently a citizen of the country of Slovakia. On August 8, 2023, she lived with her two daughters in Lahaina at the Emerald Plaza, 258 Kupuohi Street, in Lahaina Maui and was employed at the Hotel Westin in Ka’anapali, Maui. On the day of the fire, she stayed inside, and at 2:30 - 3:00 p.m., the fire started in Lahainaluna. She fled with her two daughters to Wailuku, in the smoke. Her daughters were traumatized by losing their home, and her older daughter is receiving therapy. Her daughters miss their father who still lives on Maui. The Lahaina fire destroyed everything ADAM and her daughters owned.

As a result of the Lahaina fire, ADAM and her two daughters have suffered damages and injury to their persons including wrongful and forcible displacement, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income. Maui was home to ADAM and her two daughters. She is distraught and suffering from depression and wants to return to Lahaina with her children but is unable to do so because he has no home and no job in Lahaina. ADAM and her two daughters are currently living with her parents in Slovakia, day to day.

16. RANDY BROCK

Plaintiff **RANDY BROCK (“BROCK”)** is presently a citizen of the State of Michigan living in Flatrock, Michigan, with his sister and brother-in-law. BROCK had lived in Lahaina in his brother’s house since 2006 and was earning over \$60,000 per year working in condominium maintenance. As a result of the Lahaina wildfire, BROCK lost his home and his employment and was forced to move to Michigan where he presently works in a grocery store earning \$13 per hour.

As a result of the Lahaina wildfire, BROCK has suffered damages and injury to his person including wrongful and forcible displacement, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income. He is distraught and suffering from depression because he wants to return to Lahaina but cannot because he has no home and no job in Lahaina.

B. DEFENDANTS

17. Defendant BISSEN is a citizen and resident of the County of Maui, and the State of Hawaii, and at all times relevant to this Class Action Complaint, was an “emergency worker” pursuant to HRS 127A-8(a) and employee of MEMA and is deemed to be a “county employee” pursuant to HRS 127A-8(c). BISSEN is entitled to indemnification by the county of Maui pursuant to HRS 127A-8(b), and pursuant

to the doctrine of *respondeat superior*.

18. Defendant ANDAYA is a citizen and resident of the County of Maui, and the State of Hawaii, and at all times relevant to this Class Action Complaint, an “emergency worker” pursuant to HRS 127A-8(a) and employee of MEMA and is deemed to be a “county employee” pursuant to HRS 127A-8(c). ANDAYA is entitled to indemnification by the county of Maui pursuant to HRS 127A-8(b), and pursuant to the doctrine of respondeat superior.

19. Defendant MEMA is a department of MAUI, with its Emergency Operations Center (“EOC”) located at 200 S. High Street, Wailuku, Maui. HRS §127A-5(b) provides that MEMA “shall perform emergency management functions within the territorial limits of the county within which it is organized, coordinate all emergency management plans within the county, and cooperate as closely as possible with the agency and emergency management agencies in the other counties in all aspects of emergency management.”

20. Defendant MFD is a department of Defendant MAUI and is responsible in the County of Maui for providing and performing fire fighting and first-responder emergency services in order to save lives and property from fires, including the prevention and management of the Lahaina wildfire.

21. Defendant MAUI is a political subdivision duly organized and existing

by virtue of Constitution and laws of the State of Hawaii. MAUI is the employer of BISSEN and ANDAYA, and is liable, under the doctrine of *respondeat superior*, for indemnification of any damages caused by BISSEN and ANDAYA, while acting in the course and scope of their employment as emergency works as alleged in this Class Action Complaint, to Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs, resulting from the Lahaina wildfire.

Defendant MAUI is the principal of MEMA and MFD and is liable for any any damages suffered by Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs caused by MEMA and MFD, as agents of MAUI, resulting from the Lahaina wildfire. Defendant MAUI is not authorized by State law to declare bankruptcy.

22. Defendant MECO, is, and at all times relevant to this Class Action Complaint was, doing business in the County of Maui, State of Hawaii, as a public utility company pursuant to HRS Chapter 269. MECO is a wholly owned subsidiary of HEI. MECO owns, controls, operates, and/or manages one or more energy plants and equipment that are directly or indirectly for public use for the production, conveyance, transmission, delivery, or furnishing of light and power in the county of Maui, State of Hawaii. Its principal place of business is in Maui County.

23. Defendant HELCO is, and at all times relevant to this Class Action Complaint was, doing business in the County of Maui, State of Hawaii, as a public

utility company pursuant to HRS Chapter 269. HELCO is a wholly owned subsidiary of HEI. HELCO owns, controls, operates, and/or manages one or more energy plants and equipment that are directly or indirectly for public use for the production, conveyance, transmission, delivery, or furnishing of light and power in the county of Maui, State of Hawaii. Its principal place of business is in Hawaii County.

24. Defendant HECO, is, and at all times relevant to this Class Action Complaint was, doing business in the County of Maui, State of Hawaii, as a public utility company, pursuant to HRS Chapter 269. HECO is a wholly owned subsidiary of HEI. HECO owns, controls, operates, and/or manages one or more energy plants and equipment that are directly or indirectly for public use for the production, conveyance, transmission, delivery, or furnishing of light and power in the County of Maui, State of Hawaii. Its principal place of business is in Honolulu, Hawaii.

25. Defendant HEI is the parent company of HECO and MECO and HELCO, and is, and at all times relevant to this Class Action Complaint was, doing business in the State of Hawaii, including the County of Maui. HEI is a publicly traded, investor-owned utility company that owns, controls, operates, and/or manages one or more energy plants and equipment that are directly or indirectly for public use for the production. conveyance, transmission, delivery, or furnishing of light and power in the County of Maui State of Hawaii pursuant to HRS Chapter 269. HEI is

in the business of providing electricity to the residents of Maui County, including, but not limited to those residing in the communities of Olinda, Kula and Lahaina, through a network of electrical transmission and distribution lines. It does regular, sustained business throughout Hawaii, including in Maui County. Its principal place of business is in Honolulu at 1001 Bishop Street, Suite 2900. Honolulu, HI 96813.

26. Plaintiff alleges on information and belief that HEI Defendants are jointly and severally liable for each other's negligence, conduct, and wrongdoing as alleged herein, including failing to timely preemptively de-energize the electric power lines and/or shut off electric connections to the Lahaina area, and are liable for negligence, gross negligence, and/or reckless acts or omissions, which caused or contributed to the loss and damages caused to Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs by the Lahaina wildfire, on August 8, 2023.

27. Defendant BISHOP ESTATE is a charitable foundation which owns hundreds of acres of fallow agricultural lands containing vast quantities of accumulated dried combustible vegetation in and around Lahaina and adjacent to and beneath HEI Defendant's poles and transmission lines which ignited on August 8, 2023, and caused or contributed to the loss and damages caused by the Lahaina wildfire.

28. Defendant JV ENTERPRISES is, and was at all times relevant to this

Class Action Complaint, a limited liability company organized in the State of Idaho, doing business in Hawaii under the trade name “JV Waiwai Investments” and, like BISHOP ESTATE, owned huge amounts of accumulated dried combustible vegetation in and around Lahaina and adjacent to and beneath HEI Defendant’s poles and transmission lines which ignited on August 8, 2023, and caused or contributed to the loss and damages caused by the Lahaina wildfire.

29. Plaintiffs have reviewed public and other available records in order to ascertain the true names and capacities of all Defendants in this action. The true names and capacities of all responsible parties are unknown to Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs are unable to ascertain the identity of the Defendants in this action designated as DOE DEFENDANTS 1-100 who are sued herein under fictitious names for the reason that despite diligent efforts, their true names and identities are presently unknown to Plaintiffs except that they are connected in some manner with the named Defendants and/or were the agents, servants, employees, employers, representatives, subsidiaries, co-venturers, associates, vendors, suppliers, manufacturers, subcontractors or contractors and/or owners, lessees, assignees, licensees, designees, and engineers of the named Defendants and/or in some manner presently unknown to Plaintiffs engaged in activities alleged herein and/or were in some manner responsible for the injuries or damages to Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs, and/or conducted some activity

in a negligent or dangerous manner and/or negligently failed to conduct some activity, which such conduct and/or absence of conduct was a proximate cause of injuries or damages to Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs as alleged in this Class Action Complaint, and Plaintiffs pray for leave to insert herein their true names, identities, capacities, activities and/or responsibilities when the same are ascertained.

RULE 23 CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

30. Plaintiffs bring all claims alleged herein under Hawaii law as a class action claim on behalf of, and seek to have certified pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Class of Plaintiffs composed of:

All persons who, as of August 8, 2023, resided in Lahaina, and whose residences have been rendered uninhabitable due to the Lahaina wildfire and who have suffered damages and injury to person, including wrongful and forcible displacement, inconvenience, loss of use, relocation expenses, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income..

31. The Class claims have been brought and may properly be maintained as a class action under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because: (1) the Class consists of thousands of persons and is so numerous that joinder of all Class members is impracticable; (2) there are questions of law and or fact common to the Class; (3) the claims of the proposed Class representatives are typical of the claims of the Class; and (4) the proposed class representatives and their counsel will fairly

and adequately protect the interests of the Class. In addition, the questions of law or fact that are common to the Class predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class members and a class action is superior to other available means for fairly and efficiently adjudicating the controversy.

a. Ascertainability and Numerosity: The potential Class Plaintiffs as defined herein are so numerous that joinder would be impracticable. The number of persons wrongfully and forcibly displaced by the Lahaina wildfire is estimated to be thousands, and it can be further presumed that the Class Plaintiffs are dispersed throughout Hawaii, the mainland United States, and other parts of the world outside the United States. Notice can be provided to the Class Plaintiffs via first class mail, email, and other techniques using a form of notice similar to those customarily used in class action lawsuits of this nature.

b. Commonality and Predominance of Common Questions: There are questions of law and fact common to Plaintiffs and the Class Plaintiffs that predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the Class. These common questions of law and fact include, but are not limited to, the following:

i. Whether BISSEN and ANDAYA had actual notice of the 2018 Kaua'ula wildfire which destroyed Kaua'ula Valley and displaced 60 residents.

ii.. Whether BISSEN and/or ANDAYA had received notice of the Red Flag Warnings and High Wind Watches issued by the National Weather Service for the Lahaina area, on August, 6, 7, & 8, 2023.

iii. Whether the failure of BISSEN and/or ANDAYA to timely direct MECO to shut off electric power connections to the Lahaina area, before the Lahaina wildfire was ignited, constituted gross negligence, and/or recklessness;

iv. Whether the gross negligence and/or recklessness of BISSEN and/or ANDAYA was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs to suffer damages and injury to persons including wrongful and forcible displacement, inconvenience, loss of use, relocation expenses, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income;

v. Whether BISSEN and/or ANDAYA are civilly liable to Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs for damages and injury to persons including wrongful and forcible displacement, inconvenience, loss of use, relocation expenses, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income, actionable under HRS Chapter 127A;

vi. Whether MEMA and/or MAUI are liable for Plaintiffs' and Class Plaintiffs' damages and injury to persons, including wrongful and forcible

displacement, inconvenience, loss of use, relocation expenses, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income, caused by BISSEN's and ANDAYA's gross negligence and/or recklessness, under HRS 127A-5(a), (b), (c), (e), HRS 127A-8(a), (b), & HRS 127A-9(a)(5), indemnification, and/or *respondeat superior*;

vii. Whether MFD had received notice of the Red Flag Warnings and High Wind Watches issued by the National Weather Service for the Lahaina area on August 6, 7, & 8, 2023,

viii. Whether MFD's failure to post a fire watch at the burn site during Red Flag Warnings and the High Wind Watch conditions constituted negligence, gross negligence, or recklessness,

ix. Whether MFD's negligence, gross negligence, or recklessness was a substantial factor in causing the Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs to suffer damages and injury to persons including wrongful and forcible displacement, inconvenience, loss of use, relocation expenses, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income.

x. Whether MAUI is liable for Plaintiffs' and Class Plaintiffs' damages and injury to persons caused by the negligence, gross negligence, or recklessness of MFD.

xi. Whether HEI Defendants had received notice of the Red Flag Warnings and High Wind Watches issued by the National Weather Service for the Lahaina area on August 6, 7, & 8, 2023,

xii. Whether HEI Defendants' failure to de-energize the electric power lines to the Lahaina area, before the Lahaina wildfire was ignited, constituted negligence, gross negligence, or recklessness;

xiii. Whether HEI Defendants' negligence, gross negligence, or recklessness was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs to suffer damages and injury to persons including wrongful and forcible displacement, inconvenience, loss of use, relocation expenses, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income.

xiv. Whether HEI Defendants' failure to reasonably manage or clear the combustible vegetation accumulated in the power line infrastructure rights-of-way to mitigate the risk of fire constituted negligence, gross negligence, or recklessness;

xv. Whether HEI Defendants' negligence, gross negligence, or recklessness was a substantial factor in causing the Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs to suffer damages and injury to persons including wrongful and forcible displacement, inconvenience, loss of use, relocation expenses, severe mental anguish, depression,

emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income.;

xvi. Whether the failure of PRIVATE LANDOWNERS to reasonably manage or clear the combustible vegetation accumulated on their land located in and around Lahaina to mitigate the risk of fire constituted negligence, gross negligence, or recklessness;

xvii. Whether PRIVATE LANDOWNERS' negligence, gross negligence, or recklessness was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs to suffer damages and injury to persons including wrongful and forcible displacement, inconvenience, loss of use, relocation expenses, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income.

c. Typicality: Plaintiffs claims are typical of the claims of the Class Plaintiffs. Defendants' common course of tortious conduct has caused Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs to sustain the same or similar injuries and damages caused by the same common violations of law, negligence, gross negligence, or recklessness of Defendants. Plaintiffs' claims are thereby representative of and co-extensive with the claims of the Class Plaintiffs.

d. Adequacy of Representation: Plaintiffs are members of the Rule 23

Class defined herein, do not have any conflicts of interest with other Class Plaintiffs, and will prosecute the case vigorously on behalf of the Class Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs' attorneys are sufficiently competent, experienced, and associated with others to represent the Class Plaintiffs and pursue a class action on behalf of Class Plaintiffs.

e. Superiority: The expense and burden of individual litigation by each member make it impractical for Class Plaintiffs to seek redress individually for the wrongful conduct alleged herein. Should separate actions be brought, or be required to be brought, by each individual Class Plaintiff, the resulting multiplicity of lawsuits would cause undue hardship and expense for the Court and the litigants. The prosecution of separate actions would also create a risk of inconsistent rulings which might be dispositive of the interests of other Class Plaintiffs who are parties to adjudication and/or may substantially impede their ability to adequately protect their interests.

32. Excluded from the Class are: (1) Defendants and any of their affiliates, parents or subsidiaries; all employees of Defendants; the judges assigned to this case, their immediate families, and court staff; and (2) insurers and insurance syndicates whose claims for damages regarding the Lahaina wildfire, arise out of a right of

subrogation, whether equitable, contractual or otherwise, (3) claims for physical bodily injury (such as serious burns, physical damages caused by inhaling noxious fumes, etc.), including wrongful death, and (4) claims for damage to real property and appurtenances thereto.

33. Plaintiffs hereby reserve the right to amend or modify the Class definition after having had an opportunity to conduct additional investigation and discovery.

34. The proposed Class meets the criteria for certification under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rules 23(a), 23(b)(1), 23(b)(2), 23(b)(3) and/or 23(c).

LAHAINA PRE-WILDFIRE BACKGROUND

35. In 2014, the Western Maui Community Wildfire Protection Plan (“WMCWPP”) documented the wildfire history of western Maui, and reported that, “The majority of wildfires on Maui are caused by human error or arson, especially near developments, power line right of ways, and along roadsides. Once ignited along the interface, wildfires can spread rapidly through residential areas, threatening both property and life.” *Id.* at p. 9.

36. The WMCWPP gave the Lahaina the highest rated fire danger of “Extremely Dangerous” and warned that Lahaina was among Maui’s most fire-prone areas. This was based on factors such as Lahaina’s proximity to grasslands, steep

terrain, and frequent high winds. *Id.*, see, Appendices B3, B5, B15, B21, B22, B23, B25, B26, B27.

37. On August 24, 2018, fierce down-slope winds associated with Hurricane Lane caused the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire which drove two huge wildfires down the mountains above Lahaina and scorched about 2,800 acres. The 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire burned 2,000 acres, and destroyed 21 structures, including 13 homes and 30 vehicles. ANDAYA was the Director of MEMA at that time.

38. In the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire, two people were injured, one because of burns and another because of smoke inhalation, and sixty people were forcibly displaced and left homeless. Six hundred people were evacuated overall. Flames reached the track field at Lahainaluna High School. The Lahaina Civic Center fire burned 800 acres and one home in Kaanapali.

39. At a post-fire community meeting held at the Lahainaluna High School cafeteria, residents questioned the lack of a shut off system for power lines at risk during high winds. They asked why they did not receive an emergency alert on their cell phones, why sirens had not blared, and why firefighters lost access to water. They pointed out the apparent lack of an evacuation plan and asked why Maui Electric Company had not cut the energy to its power lines in anticipation of the fire risk. “We were running around through town with cinders burning our hairs,

banging on doors to wake people up at two in the morning,” one resident said at the meeting. “Why did our civil defense siren system fail us?” People were angry. Uilani Kapu, whose house was destroyed, yelled at then Mayor Alan Arakawa and his staff about the lack of a brush abatement program.

40. Mayor Arakawa said, “We could have had a lot of deaths. . . . When you look at the magnitude of the fire that occurred and the amount of acreage that burned, and how close it came to so many houses, . . . we could have lost most of Lahaina.”

41. Following the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire, county officials considered themselves lucky that the fire did not jump Lahainaluna Road, or it would have devastated the town of Lahaina. At a special Maui County Council meeting held on August 28, 2018, then MEMA Director ANDAYA, said, “It nearly, nearly reached Lahaina Town. And had it jumped Lahainaluna Road, it would have been, I mean, it would have been devastating.” *[Video transcript.]*

The MEMA After-Action Report/Improvement Plan 2018-08-18 For Tropical Cyclone Lane, dated August 2019 (“AAR”) failed to address any of the complaints and questions raised by residents, including failure to preemptively shut off electric power, lack of warning siren, lack of water for fire fighters, lack of an evacuation plan, and lack of a brush abatement program. As a result of the AAR’s failure to address the mistakes raised by the residents which would have prevented a repeat of

future wildfire, the AAR contained recommendations, such as, “Improve air flow and air conditioning of the EOC.”

The AAR Conclusion stated, in part: “Much of the EOC’s preparation was for the effects of a hurricane or tropical storm, and so we were caught off guard when the threat turned into a large brush fire that came close to engulfing all of Lahaina town.” On August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, the NWS issued multiple Red Flag Warnings and High Wind Watches warning of catastrophic rapidly spreading wildfires on August 8, 2023, which were ignored by BISSEN and ANDAYA. Accordingly, because of their gross negligence and/or recklessness, on August 8, 2023, MEMA was “caught off guard” again, and the EOC was not fully activated until 4:30 p.m., long after it was too late to stop the wildfire from burning down Lahaina town.

42. Following the 2023, Lahaina wildfire, David Jung, a Lahaina resident said, “We were given a bunch of lip service, and instead of preventing another fire, the focus of the meeting was ‘Look, we’re gonna give you guys money and reimburse you,’ and we were, ‘No, no, no, no , that is not what we want. You can give us all the money in the world, we just do not want this to happen again.’ But everything we told them was completely, 100% ignored.” “It was all just a replay of 2018,” Jung said, “only worse.” *NBC News, August 24, 2023.*

43. A 2018-2019 report from the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization

was particularly attuned to the fact research shows vegetation is a “key ingredient in the recipe for recurring wildfire.” The report pointed out the seemingly obvious conclusion that “reducing wildfire hazard is a landscape-level issue” because fires do not respect property boundaries. The report noted that over the past decade more than 1,000 wildfires burned more than 17,000 acres occur every year in Hawaii. The report concluded that much of the increased rate of wildfire in Hawaii, more than a 400% increase over the past century, is because of human conduct and specifically related to “nonnative, fire-prone grasses and shrubs [that] now cover nearly one quarter of Hawaii’s total land area and, together with a warming, drying climate and year-round fire season, greatly increase the incidence of larger fires.”

44. The 2018-2019 report also pointed out the unique risk posed by electrical lines: “Above ground power lines are vulnerable to wildfire and can even provide the ignition (sparks) that could start a wildfire, particularly in windy or stormy conditions. There are long-term solutions for reducing power line-related wildfire hazards such as infrastructure upgrades.” The report recommended updating the infrastructure and burying power lines, particularly in high-risk areas, and specifically in Lahaina. The HWMO’s update hazard mitigation plan lists West Maui as having a “high wind fire risk” and a map on page 503 shows all of Lahaina buildings as being in a wind fire risk area, and the document warns that “populations with limited

access to information may not receive time-critical warning information to enable them to reach places of safety.”

45. In 2019, a series of brush fires across Maui burned thousands of acres. One Maui wildfire burned thousands of acres and prompted evacuations in Maalaea and North Kihei.

46. In a 2020 report titled, “Fire and Rain: The Legacy of Hawaii” published in the American Meteorological Society’s Journal, researchers from the University of Hawaii found that neither thunderstorms nor lightning started the 2018 Hurricane Lane wildfires. The Honolulu Fire Department attributed the Oahu wildfire to power lines arcing in Hurricane Lane’s powerful, high wind gusts.

47. Fire data from the 2020 Maui County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (MCHMPU) has indicated 80 wildfires directly impacted Maui County between 1999 and 2019. This results in approximately four fires every year occurring within the County overall. The MCHMPU also warned that the western portion of Maui has a “Highly Likely (greater than 90% annual chance)” probability of experiencing wildfires.

48. The MCHMPU identifies all of Lahaina’s homes and buildings within a “High Risk Area” for wildfire and warns that “populations with limited access to information may not receive time-critical warning information to enable them to reach

places of safety.”

49. The July 2021 Maui County Report on Wildfire Prevention and Cost Recovery made various recommendations. The investigation found that the number of incidents from a combination of “wild/brush/forest fires appears to be increasing, and that this increase poses an increased threat to citizens, properties, and sacred sites.”

50. Consistent with Hawaii authorities and agencies, Federal Emergency Management Agency’s April 2023, Wind Retrofit Guide for Residential Buildings in Hurricane-Prone Regions designates the entire state of Hawaii as a hurricane-prone region at risk of high-wind hazards.

LAHAINA PRE-WILDFIRE RED FLAG WARNINGS

51. On Friday, August 4, 2023, the NWS posted on X (formerly known as Twitter) that Hawaii could experience “indirect impacts” from Hurricane Dora from Monday, August 7, 2023 through Wednesday, August, 9, 2023. including “strong and gusty trade winds” and “dry weather and high-fire danger.”

52. On August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, the National Weather Service [NWS} issued seven Red Flag Warnings and six High Wind Watches prior to the ignition of the Lahaina wildfire, as follows:

53. On Sunday, August 6, 2023, the NWS issued three High Wind Watches

at 3:33 a.m., 10:05 a.m. and 3:24 p.m. The High Wind Watch issued at 3:33 a.m., stated: “HIGH WIND WATCH IN EFFECT FROM MONDAY MORNING THROUGH LATE TUESDAY NIGHT. IMPACTS: Damaging winds could blow down trees and power lines.” The High Wind Watches issued at 10:05 a.m., and 3:24 p.m. repeated the same warnings. Lahaina Fire Comprehensive Timeline Report, at pp. 279 - 306.

54. On August 6, 2023, the NWS issued three Red Flag Warnings at 3:33 a.m., 4:01 a.m. and 3:33 p.m. A Red Flag Warning is the highest NWS alert for conditions that might result in extreme fire behavior. The Red Flag Warning issued at 3:33 a.m., stated: “CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER CONDITIONS POSSIBLE MONDAY MORNING THROUGH LATE TUESDAY NIGHT ACROSS LEEWARD AREAS. Strong and gusty winds combined with low humidities and KBDI values possibly exceeding 600 may lead to critical fire conditions across leeward areas over the coming days.” “FIRE WEATHER WATCH IN EFFECT FROM MONDAY MORNING THROUGH LATE TUESDAY NIGHT FOR LEEWARD AREAS DUE TO STRONG AND GUSTY WINDS WITH LOW HUMIDITY. The National Weather Service in Honolulu has issued a fire Weather Watch which is in effect from Monday morning through late Tuesday Night. IMPACTS: Any fires that develop will likely spread rapidly.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS. “A Fire Weather Watch means that critical fire weather conditions are forecast to occur.” The Red Flag Warnings issued at 4:01 a.m., and 3:33 p.m. repeated the same warnings. *Id.*

55. On August 6, 2023, at 3:34 a.m., the NWS issued a Fire Weather Planning Forecast which stated: “Maui Leeward West - Including Lahaina, Ka’anapali.” “FIRE WEATHER WATCH IN EFFECT FROM MONDAY MORNING THROUGH LATE TUESDAY NIGHT” *Id.*

56. On August 6, 2023, the Area Forecast Discussion issued at 9:13 p.m. stated: “FIRE WEATHER Critical fire conditions are highly likely beginning Monday. . . . Conditions could develop as early as Monday, but Tuesday has the greatest potential as the KDBI is expected to reach near or just above the 600 mark.” *Id.*

57. On Monday, August 7, 2023, the NWS issued three more Red Flag Warnings at 3:15 a.m. and 4:42 a.m. and 3:55 p.m. The Red Flag Warning issued at 3:15 a.m. stated: “RED FLAG WARNING FOR LEEWARD AREAS DUE TO GUSTY WINDS AND LOW HUMIDITY. Very dry fuels combined with strong and gusty easterly winds and low humidities below 45% will produce critical weather conditions” and repeated the admonition that, “Any fires that develop will likely spread rapidly.” *Id.*

58. The Red Flag Warning issued on August 7, 2023, at 4:42 a.m., DISCUSSION stated, “The strongest winds are expected over mountain terrain and downslope into leeward areas where a High Wind Warning is in effect. . . . Wind speeds are expected to ramp up this afternoon/evening from east to west across the state with the window for the strongest winds after midnight tonight through the day on Tuesday.” FIRE WEATHER stated: “Critical fire weather conditions are expected for the next few days as strong winds and a very dry air mass affects the state. The KDBI is expected to break 600 tomorrow, with the afternoon relative humidities dropping below 45 percent. Combined with strong winds over 20 mph, the potential for extreme fire behavior is possible with any wildfires that develop and a Red Flag Warning is currently in effect.” The Red Flag Warning issued at 3:55 p.m. did not contain any additional warnings *Id.*

59. The Area Forecast Discussion issued on August 7, 2023, at 3:53 p.m. stated, in part: “FIRE WEATHER. Critical fire weather conditions are expected for Tuesday and a Red Flag Warning remains in effect. Fuels are dry as indicated by the KBDI which is expected to break 600 tomorrow. RH is expected to drop below the 45% threshold red flag conditions tomorrow. Combined with winds that will be stronger than today, the potential exists for extreme fire behavior with any wildfire that ignites.” *Id.*

60. The undisputed evidence proves that, by August 7, 2023, BISSEN and ANDAYA, knew or should have known that: “Critical fire weather conditions are expected for Tuesday and a Red Flag Warning remains in effect. Fuels are dry as indicated by the KBDI which is expected to break 600 tomorrow. RH is expected to drop below the 45% threshold red flag conditions tomorrow. Combined with winds that will be stronger than today, the potential exists for extreme fire behavior with any wildfire that ignites.” *Id.*

61. On Tuesday, August 8, 2023, the NWS issued the seventh Red Flag Warning at 3:17 a.m., prior to ignition of the Lahaina wildfire at 6:35 a.m. The Red Flag Warning stated: “RED FLAG WARNING FOR LEEWARD AREAS DUE TO STRONG WINDS AND LOW HUMIDITY. Very dry fuels combined with strong and gusty easterly winds and low humidities will produce critical fire weather conditions through tonight. RED FLAG WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 6:00 A.M. HST WEDNESDAY FOR STRONG WINDS AND LOW HUMIDITY. IMPACTS: Any fires that develop will likely spread rapidly. PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS. . . . A Red Flag Warning means that critical fire weather conditions are either occurring or now or will shortly. A combination of strong winds, low relative humidity, and warm temperatures can contribute to extreme fire behavior.” *Id.*

62. On Tuesday, August 8, 2023, the NWS issued its sixth High Wind Warning at 3:18 a.m. prior to ignition of the Lahaina wildfire at 6:35 a.m. “HIGH WIND WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 6:00 A.M. HST WEDNESDAY. IMPACTS: Damaging winds may blow down trees and power lines.” The Fire Weather Planning Forecast issued at 4:00 a.m., stated: “RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT UNTIL 6:00 HST WEDNESDAY. Very dry fuels (KDBI around 600) combined with strong and gusty easterly winds with low humidities below 45% will produce critical fire weather conditions through tonight.” “Maui Leeward West - including Lahaina, Ka’anapali 4:00 a.m. HST Tuesday August 8, 2023. RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 A.M, HST WEDNESDAY.”

COUNT I - WRONGFUL FORCIBLE DISPLACEMENT
[Violations of Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 127A]
(On Behalf of Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs Against
Defendants BISSEN and ANDAYA)

63 Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference each and every paragraph above, as though the same were fully set forth herein.

BISSEN and ANDAYA’s Failure to Prevent The Lahaina Wildfire

64. On August 24, 2018, fallen electric power lines ignited a massive wildfire driven by Hurricane Lane’s storm-force winds in the parched hillsides and fallow fields above Lahaina, which miraculously stalled before it crossed Lahainaluna

Road, sparing Lahaina town and its people from disaster. This 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire destroyed Kaua’ula Valley and burned 2,800 acres, destroyed 21 structures, including 13 homes and displaced 60 residents, and was then, the largest wildfire event in Maui history.

65. BISSEN and ANDAYA knew exactly what the problems were which caused the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire, including lack of a shut off system for power lines at risk during high winds, lack of an emergency alert on their cell phones, lack of warning sirens, lack of water for firefighters, lack of an evacuation plan, and lack of a brush abatement program.

66. Pursuant to HRS 127A-5(a)(b), BISSEN, who was installed as the head of MEMA January 2, 2023, “had direct responsibility for emergency management within the county, including the organization, administration, and operation of a county emergency management agency” and had the duty “to perform emergency management functions within the territorial limits of the county.” See, also HRS 127A-11(a). Although the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire event had clearly demonstrated Lahaina’s vulnerability to devastation, BISSEN “100% ignored” his obligation to protect Lahaina and its residents from “lots of deaths” as a Lahaina resident had complained about BISSEN. BISSEN did nothing before the Lahaina wildfire to address the same factors which had contributed to the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire,

including the failure to proactively cut the energy to the power lines in anticipation of the fire risk, the failure to conduct a brush abatement program, the failure to blare the sirens, the failure to provide sufficient water for firefighters, and the failure to provide for an evacuation plan. BISSEN'S failures to perform his responsibilities to protect Lahaina and its residents from a repeat of the 2018 Kaua'ula wildfire, resulted in the destruction of Lahaina by the Lahaina wildfire. BISSEN's conscious indifference to the consequences of a devastating repeat of the 2018 Kaua'ula wildfire was egregious and outrageous, and constituted gross negligence, and/or recklessness pursuant to HRS 127A-9(a)(5).

67. ANDAYA was appointed as the MEMA director in 2017, over five years before the Lahaina wildfire and prior to the 2018 Kaua'ula wildfire, and, also had the duty pursuant to 127A-5(b)(e) and 127A-11(a)(3), "to perform emergency management functions" including to prevent and protect Lahaina from a repeat of the 2018 Kaua'ula wildfire. ANDAYA's conscious indifference to the consequences of a devastating repeat of the 2018 Kaua'ula wildfire which resulted in the Lahaina wildfire was egregious and outrageous, and constituted gross negligence and/or recklessness under HRS 127A-9(a)(5).

68. On August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, the NWS issued multiple Red Flag Warnings and High Wind Watches which forecast that high wind gusts, low humidity, and dry

and highly combustible vegetation would create the risk of “critical fire weather” for the Lahaina area. The NWS also predicted that the high winds could topple power poles and that the power lines could ignite dry and highly combustible vegetation, and that “the potential exists for extreme fire behavior with any wildfire that ignites including that a wildfire that would spread rapidly.”

69. On August 8, 2023, at 6:35 a.m., strong wind gusts did, in fact, blow down power lines which did, in fact, ignite very dry fuels which had accumulated in MECO’s right-of-way at Ku’ialua Street and Ho’okahua Place across from the Lahaina Intermediate School. At 3:30 p.m. the high winds rekindled a fire at the unattended burn site which spread rapidly to hundreds of acres of dry combustible vegetation accumulated on fallow agricultural land owned by PRIVATE LANDOWNERS causing a huge conflagration, which eventually destroyed Lahaina town, caused at least 102 deaths, and wrongfully and forcibly displaced at least 12,000 residents, including Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs.

70. The Lahaina wildfire was not a surprise or an unforeseen event, because it was a repeat of the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire, and the precise events which caused the Lahaina wildfire had been predicted by multiple Red Flag Warnings and High Wind Watches issued by the NWS on August, 6, 7, & 8, 2023, which had been timely received by BISSEN and ANDAYA.

71. BISSEN did not issue an Emergency Proclamation until 8:00 p.m., after Lahaina town had been almost totally destroyed, and all of its 12,000 residents had been forcibly displaced. The Emergency Proclamation direction to “shut off . . . electric power connections” to the Lahaina area was never enforced because it was issued way too late to be of any use at all.

72. The failure of BISSEN and ANDAYA to take precautionary measures to prevent and protect Lahaina and its residents from a repeat of the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire, including directing MECO to proactively deenergize its power lines during the High Wind Watch and Red Flag Warning conditions on August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, was egregious and outrageous and constituted gross negligence and/or recklessness and was a substantial factor in causing the Lahaina wildfire which devastated the town of Lahaina, killing at least 102 people and destroying approximately 3,800 residences and businesses, rendering them uninhabitable and displacing and dispossessing more than 12,000 residents, including Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs, many of whom are still homeless or have dispersed to the Mainland or other locations around the world.

73. BISSEN’s and ANDAYA’s conscious indifference to the consequences of a devastating repeat of the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire which was a substantial factor in causing the Lahaina wildfire was egregious and outrageous, and constituted gross negligence, and/or recklessness pursuant to HRS 127A-9(a)(5), which resulted in the

displacement of 12,000 residents of Lahaina, including Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs, and damages and injury to persons, to Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs including wrongful and forcible displacement, inconvenience, loss of use, relocation expenses, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income..

BISSEN and ANDAYA's conscious indifference to consequences, complete want of care and disregard for the rights of Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs was grossly negligent and/or reckless by clear and convincing evidence entitling Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs to an award of punitive damages.

BISSEN's Untimely Emergency Proclamation

74. BISSEN issued an Emergency Proclamation on August 8, 2023, at approximately 8:00 p.m. which constitutes a signed, a written admission of his liability for gross negligence and/or recklessness and clear and convincing evidence of his liability for punitive damages for gross negligence and/or recklessness corroborating Plaintiffs' claims that he knew that:

- a. he had the direct responsibility and authority over emergency management within the County;
- b. he knew that very dry conditions and strong and potentially damaging easterly winds caused by the passage of Hurricane Dora to the south of the State were

contributing to the wildfire danger on Maui and in the Lahaina area;

c. he knew that the potential fires threatened to cause damages, losses, and suffering of such character and magnitude to affect the health, welfare, and living conditions of a substantial number of persons on Maui and in the Lahaina area;

d. he knew there was need for government agencies to mobilize and provide immediate services to residents of the County of Maui and to mitigate hazardous situations in advance of the weather effects from Hurricane Dora;

e. he knew there was imminent danger of a state of emergency in all or any portion of the County of Maui of the threat of imminent disaster due to property damage and/ or bodily injury to residents of Maui County; and

f. he knew that he had the emergency power to preemptively order electric power connections to be shut off.

75. The Emergency Proclamation stated, in relevant part, as follows:

WHEREAS, Chapter 127 A Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides for the establishment of County Organizations for emergency management and disaster relief with the Mayor having direct responsibility and authority over emergency management within the County; and

* * *

WHEREAS, very dry conditions and strong and potentially damaging easterly winds caused by the passage of Hurricane Dora to the south of the State are contributing to the wildfire danger; and

WHEREAS, these fires threaten to cause damages, losses, and suffering of such character and magnitude to affect the health, welfare, and living conditions of a substantial number of persons ...

* * *

WHEREAS, due to the possibility of imminent disaster due to property damage and/ or bodily injury to residents of Maui County, and the need for government agencies and representatives from the private sector to mobilize and provide immediate services to outer island residents, a Civil Defense state of emergency is authorized pursuant to Chapters 127 A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated occurrence of a severe, sudden, and extraordinary event of damaging high winds and very dry conditions threatens to cause damage, loss, and suffering of such character and magnitude to affect the health, welfare, and living conditions of a substantial number of persons, and to affect the economy of Maui County, and is expected to be of such a nature as to warrant rehabilitative assistance from the County and the State; and

WHEREAS, there is need for government agencies and representatives from the private sector to mobilize and provide immediate services to County residents and to mitigate hazardous situations in advance of the weather effects from Hurricane Dora; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to sections 127A-14(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes ("Haw. Rev. Stat.") the Mayor is authorized to declare by proclamation whether an emergency or disaster has occurred, or there is an imminent danger or threat of an emergency or disaster and authorize actions under chapter 127 A, Haw. Rev. Stat., and the expenditure of funds thereunder; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Haw. Rev. Stat. §127A-12(c)(1 7), the Mayor may take any and all steps necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of chapter 127 A, Haw. Rev. Stat., notwithstanding that powers in Haw. Rev. Stat. §127A-13(b) may only be exercised during an emergency period;

* * *

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR., Mayor of the County of Maui, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the County of Maui as set forth above, in order to promote and protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents and visitors of the

County of Maui, do hereby proclaim, determine, declare, and find that:

1. There is imminent danger of a state of emergency in all or any portion of the County of Maui, as of the date and time of this Proclamation; and

* * *

7. Sections 127A-12(a)(5), 127A-13(b)(3), and 127A-13(b)(4), Haw. Rev. Stat., and the Director of the Maui Emergency Management Agency is directed to take appropriate actions to direct or control, as may be necessary for emergency management:

e. Shut off water mains, gas mains, electric power connections, or suspension of other services;

76 Upon information and belief, pursuant to HRS 127A-15(a), the Emergency Proclamation was promulgated by posting it on the applicable state or county emergency management agency website on August 9, 2023.

77. By the time BISSEN had issued the Emergency Proclamation directing MEMA to shut off electric power connections, at least 102 residents had been killed, 3,800 homes and businesses had been destroyed, and Lahaina's 12,000 residents had been forcibly displaced. The wildfire damage to Lahaina town was incalculable, not just billions of dollars to replace burned down homes and buildings, but permanently ruined lives and lifelong and insurmountable burdens and hardships forcibly imposed upon the thousands of displaced and dispossessed residents like Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs who survived.

78. The Emergency Proclamation is also an admission of his liability for

gross negligence and/or recklessness and clear and convincing evidence of his liability for punitive damages for gross negligence and/or recklessness corroborating the Plaintiffs claims that BISSEN's failure to timely preemptively direct MECO to shut off electric power connections to the Lahaina area before the Lahaina wildfire was ignited constituted gross negligence and/or recklessness, and was a substantial factor in causing the Plaintiffs' and Class Plaintiffs damages and injury to persons including wrongful and forcible displacement, inconvenience, loss of use, relocation expenses, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income.

BISSEN's Maui Lawsuit Against MECO

79. On August 24, 2023, BISSEN instructed and authorized Maui Corporation Counsel Victoria J. Takayesu and private attorney L. Richard Fried Jr., to sign and file the Maui Lawsuit.

80. On or about August 24, 2023, BISSEN ratified and adopted the allegations contained in the Maui Lawsuit, which states in relevant part, as follows:

COUNT 11—GROSS NEGLIGENCE (Against MECO. HECO. HELCO. HEI. and DOES 1 through 50)

99. Plaintiff hereby- realleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained above as though the same were set forth herein in full.

100. Defendants knew of the extreme fire danger that the high wind gusts posed to their overhead electrical infrastructure, particularly

during Red Flag conditions. These risks included the fact that winds could topple power poles and power lines, causing them to fall to the ground, ignite vegetation, and cause a wildfire that would spread quickly.

101. Defendants' 2019 Press Release indicates their knowledge of the known risks of wildfires associated with powerful high-wind gusts.

102. Despite Defendants' knowledge of these extreme risks, Defendants chose not to deenergize their power lines during the High Wind Watch and Red Flag Warning conditions for Maui prior to the Maui Fires starting.

103. Defendants chose not to de-energize their power lines even after they knew some power poles and power lines had fallen and came in contact with the vegetation or the ground.

104. Further, Defendants failed to de-energize their power lines, even after the Maui Fires started.

105. Defendants acted with indifference to the probable consequences of their acts and/or omissions.

106. In the face of knowledge of the risk of high, powerful winds and wildfires generally, a High Wind Watch, a Red Flag Warning, and specific warnings that high winds could blow down power poles and that fires would spread rapidly, Defendants did nothing.

107. Defendants' gross negligence was the direct and proximate cause of the damages and injuries that Plaintiff suffered.

108. As a further direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligence, Plaintiff incurred significant and actual damages, as described herein and in an amount to be proven at trial.

* * *

110. Defendants' conduct was intentional and malicious, and in complete disregard to the rights of Plaintiff subjecting Defendants to awards of punitive damages. See, Exhibit D.

81. The Maui Lawsuit also alleged that MECO should be enjoined from "leaving their power lines energized in high fire risk areas of Maui during Red Flag Warning and/or High Wind Warning conditions", as follows:

COUNT V—INJUNCTIVE RELIEF
(Against MECO, HECO, HELCO, HEI, and DOES 1 through 50)

140. Plaintiff hereby realleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained above as though the same were set forth herein in full.

141. Plaintiff seeks an order enjoining Defendants from leaving their power lines energized in high fire risk areas of Maui during Red Flag Warning and/or High Wind Warning conditions.

82. The Maui Lawsuit alleging that the HEI Defendants were grossly negligent for failing to “de-energize their power lines during Red Flag Warning and/or High Wind Warning conditions for Maui” constitutes a judicial admission by BISSEN of his liability for gross negligence and/or recklessness and clear and convincing evidence of his liability for punitive damages for gross negligence and/or recklessness corroborating Plaintiffs’ claims about BISSEN’s knowledge as set forth above.

83. The Maui Lawsuit constitutes an admission of his liability for gross negligence and/or recklessness and clear and convincing evidence of his liability for punitive damages for gross negligence and/or recklessness corroborating Plaintiffs’ claims that the failure of BISSEN and ANDAYA to deenergize MECO’s power lines during the High Wind Watch and Red Flag Warning conditions for Maui prior to the starting of the Lahaina wildfire constituted gross negligence and a substantial factor in causing damages and injuries that Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs suffered and is also clear and convincing evidence of gross negligence which entitles Plaintiffs and Class

Plaintiffs to punitive damages.

Additional Violations of HRS Chapter §127A

84. The Emergency Management Statutes, HRS Chapter §127A, provided BISSEN and ANDAYA with the emergency powers necessary to prevent a repeat of the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire, and prepare and prevent the 2023 Lahaina wildfire disaster.

85. Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (“HRS”) §127A-1 provides, in part, that:

(a) Because of the existing and increasing possibility of the occurrence of disasters or emergencies of unprecedented size and destructiveness resulting from natural or human-caused hazards, and in order to ensure that the preparations of this State will be adequate to deal with such disasters or emergencies; to ensure the administration of state and federal programs providing disaster relief to individuals; and generally to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, and to preserve the lives, property, and environment of the State, it is hereby found and declared to be necessary:

(1) To provide for emergency management by the State, and to authorize the creation of local organizations for emergency management in the counties of the State;

(2) To confer upon the governor and upon the mayors of the counties of the State the emergency powers necessary to prepare for and respond to emergencies or disasters;.

86. At all times, BISSEN was the head of the MEMA pursuant to HRS §127A-1(a)(2). See, also HRS §127A-5(a) and HRS §127A-11(a).

87. On August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, BISSEN, as the head of MEMA, had multiple

emergency powers necessary to prevent a repeat of the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire, and to respond to 2023 Red Flag Warnings and prepare for the imminent danger or threat of a disastrous wildfire to Lahaina, by declaring a state of emergency to shut off electric power connections to the Lahaina area, pursuant to HRS §127A-1(a)(2) and HRS §127A-14(b) and HRS §127A-13(b)(3).

88. On August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, BISSEN and ANDAYA knew the causes of the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire and had received written notice of multiple Red Flag Warnings and High Wind Watches issued by the National Weather Service covering the Lahaina area, prior to the ignition of the 2023 Lahaina wildfire on August 8, 2023, at approximately 6:35 a.m.

89 On August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, BISSEN and ANDAYA knew that the Red Flag Warnings and High Wind Watches indicated a state of emergency, and the existence of an imminent danger or threat of an catastrophic wildfire disaster by “critical fire weather conditions” and “extreme fire behavior” for the Lahaina area, prior to the ignition of the 2023 Lahaina wildfire on August 8, 2023, at approximately 6:35 a.m.

90. The Fire Weather Planning Forecast issued on August 7, 2023, specifically warned that, “[v]ery dry fuels (KDBI around 600) combined with strong and gusty easterly winds with low humidities below 45% will produce critical fire

weather conditions through tonight.”

91. The High Wind Watches issued on August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, expressly warned that “[d]amaging winds may blow down trees and power lines.”

92. On August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, BISSEN and ANDAYA knew that the high winds which the NWS had predicted could topple power poles and knock down power lines would be a repeat of the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire and ignite the hundreds of acres of highly combustible vegetation accumulated in the underlying and adjacent fallow sugar cane fields.

93. On August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, BISSEN and ANDAYA also knew that if MECO’s overhead electric power lines fell and ignited the dry combustible vegetation, the high winds could cause the raging wildfire to rapidly spread and jump Lahainaluna Road which would devastate Lahaina town and displace thousands of residents.

94. In fact, on August 7, 2023, BISSEN knew that the high winds already had toppled a live electric power line which had cause a wildfire in Kula, because he self-reported that he “had been in communication with the county’s Emergency Operating Center during the fires, including a virtual meeting the morning of August 8 because the Kula fire had started late the night before.”

95. Based on the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire and the multiple Red Flag Warnings and High Wind Watches issued by the NWS on August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, and “the Kula

fire [which] had started late the night before,” on August 6, 7, & 8, 2023 BISSEN and ANDAYA had a duty pursuant to HRS §127A-13(b)(3) to exercise their power to shut off electric power connections to the Lahaina area prior to the ignition of the 2023 Lahaina wildfire.

96. On August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, BISSEN and ANDAYA’s failure to exercise their emergency powers to direct MECO to preemptively shut off electric power connections to the Lahaina area caused an energized electric power line to fall and ignite a brush fire in the hundreds of acres of highly combustible vegetation accumulated in the underlying fallow sugar cane fields adjacent to the Ku’ialua Street cul-de-sac on August 8, 2023.

97. The brush fire flared up and spread rapidly to hundreds of acres of dry and highly combustible vegetation causing a huge conflagration which devastated Lahaina town, causing at least 102 deaths, severely injuring thousands, destroying 2,500 residences, thereby forcibly displacing and dispossessing 12,000 residents, including Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs.

98. On August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, BISSEN failed to perform his duty and direct responsibility for emergency management functions within Maui county, including timely declaration of a state of emergency pursuant to HRS §127A-14(b), and the timely exercise of his emergency power to preemptively shut off electric power

connections to the Lahaina area prior to the ignition of the Lahaina wildfire violated HRS §127A-5 (a) and (b), and HRS §127A-13(b)(3).

99. BISSEN's and ANDAYA's entire want of care, conscious indifference to consequences of the 2018 Kaua'ula wildfire and the Red Flag Warnings and High Wind Watches issued by the NWS on August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, and the Kula fire which had started late the night before, violated HRS §127A-5 (a) and (b), HRS §127A-14(b) and HRS §127A-13(b)(3), and was egregious and outrageous and was a proximate cause of the Lahaina wildfire and a substantial factor in causing the Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs damages and personal injuries, as aforesaid, and constituted actionable gross negligence and/or recklessness pursuant to HRS §127A-9(a)(5).

100. On August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, BISSEN failed his duty and direct responsibility for emergency management within Maui county, pursuant to HRS §127A-5(a), by failing prevent a repeat of the 2018 Kaua'ula wildfire, and failing to adequately prepare for timely and effective responses to an imminent threat of Red Flag Warning disasters and emergencies to Lahaina town.

101. BISSEN's entire want of care, conscious indifference to consequences, and failure to prevent a repeat of the 2018 Kaua'ula wildfire, and to prepare for timely and effective responses to an imminent threat of Red Flag Warning disasters and emergencies to Lahaina town in violation of HRS §127A-5(a) was egregious and

outrageous, and constituted gross negligence, and/or recklessness, pursuant to HRS 127A 9(a)(5).

102. Pursuant to HRS §127A-5(b), BISSEN had the duty to perform all emergency functions within the county and to organize and coordinate all emergency management plans within MEMA, MFD and the Maui Police Department in order to prevent a repeat of the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire and to prepare for the timely and effective response to Red Flag Warning of an imminent threat of a wildfire disaster to Lahaina town.

103. On August 27, 2023, Jon Heggie, a public information officer of the Joint Information Center, Maui Communications Team, claimed that, “the only continuous communication the county had with Hawaiian Electric’s Maui subsidiary was to check on the status and clearance of downed transmission lines and poles blocking roads and highways.”

104. BISSEN’s and ANDAYA’s entire want of care, conscious indifference to consequences, and failure to perform emergency management functions and to coordinate all emergency management plans within MEMA, MFD, and the Maui Police Department, in order to prevent a repeat of the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire, and to prepare for Red Flag Warning conditions on August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, violated HRS §127A-1(a)(2) and HRS §127A-5(b), and was egregious and outrageous and

constituted gross negligence, and/or recklessness pursuant to HRS 127A 9(a)(5).

105. BISSEN knew that the NWS had issued multiple Red Flag Warnings and High Wind Watches on August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, but failed to report to the EOC before the Lahaina wildfire had already been ignited on August 8, 2023, at approximately 6:35 a.m., which flared up and destroyed Lahaina town and forcibly displaced its 12,000 residents, including Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs.

106. BISSEN's entire want of care, conscious indifference to consequences and failure to report to the EOC on August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, before the Lahaina wildfire had already been ignited violated HRS §127A-5(b), and was egregious and outrageous and constituted gross negligence, and/or recklessness pursuant to HRS 127A 9(a)(5).

107. ANDAYA knew that the NWS had issued multiple Red Flag Warnings and High Wind Watches on August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, but never reported to the EOC until August 9, 2023, a day after the wildfire had already substantially destroyed Lahaina town and forcibly displaced its 12,000 residents, including Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs. Instead of being present at the EOC during Red Flag Warning conditions, on August 7, 2023, ANDAYA went to Honolulu to attend a FEMA conference in Waikiki. Although ANDAYA was notified of the Olinda fire in the early morning on August 8, ANDAYA decided to stay in Honolulu, and his emails

with his assistant, Gaye Gabuat, clearly demonstrate his lack of concern and wilful disregard for the lives and safety of the Lahaina residents as follows:

3:53 p.m.

Gaye Gabuat to Herman Andaya: “Lol. Poor chief looks so overwhelm. Chief is wanting help from the military. Not sure of what.”

4:01 p.m.

Andaya to Gabuat: “This is crazy. How is everyone holding up?”

4:03 p.m.

Andaya to Gabuat: “Should I come home?”

Gabuat to Andaya: “PIOs are funny. There are 3 of them and they look scared and overwhelmed. . . I think they need a hug lol to calm down.”

9:37 p.m.

Andaya to Gabuat: “How’s the other fires?”

9:38 p.m.

Gabuat to Andaya: “Still burning.”

Andaya to Gabuat: “Wow. . . lol.”

Gabuat to Andaya: “Now we have Kihei fire near Pulehu Road.”

Andaya to Gabuat: “You just keep making my day.”

10:58 p.m.

Hawaii Emergency Management Agency administrator James Barros to Andaya: “LtG just called. . . Very concerned.”

Andaya to Barros: “Yes. . . . this is really bad. I’m flying back tomorrow.”

ANDAYA’s emails with MEMA during the Lahaina wildfire, such as, “Wow.

. . lol” and “You just keep making my day,” demonstrate that he did not know and did not care what was occurring and what options were being explored to protect the public. Instead, ANDAYA and his MEMA staff were just “laughing out loud” while Lahaina burned.

108. In his resignation speech on August 18, 2023, ANDAYA unabashedly and arrogantly stated that he had “no regrets” for failing to sound the Lahaina sirens

to warn the Lahaina residents of the wildfire on August 8, 2023, despite the fact that he knew that many residents may have been killed, injured and/or traumatized by his failure to do so. ANDAYA's resignation constitutes an admission that he had abandoned his post on August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, and that his entire want of care, conscious indifference to consequences and failure to preemptively shut off electric power connections to the Lahaina area before the Lahaina wildfire commenced on August 8, 2023, and to sound the emergency siren warning the Lahaina residents of the wildfire violated HRS §127A-1(a)(2) and HRS §127A-5(b), and was egregious and outrageous and constituted gross negligence, and/or recklessness pursuant to HRS 127A 9(a)(5).

109. Although the NWS had issued Red Flag Warnings and High Wind Warnings on August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, BISSEN and ANDAYA failed to fully activate the EOC until August 8, 2023 at 4:30 p.m., after Lahaina had already been substantially devastated, and after its 12,000 residents, including Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs, had already been **forcibly** displaced.

110. BISSEN's and ANDAYA's entire want of care, conscious indifference to consequences, and failure to timely and fully activate the EOC on August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, in order to prevent a repeat of the 2018 Kaua'ula wildfire, and to prepare for timely and effective responses to an imminent threat of Red Flag Warning and High

Wind Warnings before the Lahaina wildfire had been ignited, and before it had devastated Lahaina and displaced its 12,000 residents, including Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs, violated HRS §127A-5(b), and was egregious and outrageous and constituted gross negligence, and/or recklessness pursuant to HRS 127A 9(a)(5).

111. Upon information and belief, BISSEN and ANDAYA failed to timely perform emergency management functions and to coordinate all emergency management plans within the county of Maui for training purposes and to monitor the response and timeliness of MEMA, MFD, and the Maui Police Department before and in response to Red Flag Warning conditions on August 6, 7, & 8, 2023.

112. The failure of BISSEN and ANDAYA to perform emergency management functions as set out in paragraph 108 above constituted gross negligence and/or recklessness, and violated HRS §127A-1(a)(2) and HRS §127A-5(b).

113. Pursuant to HRS §127A-5(i), BISSEN, had a duty and direct responsibility to coordinate, develop, and implement a comprehensive emergency management plan for the county and submit annual reports to the administrator on the status and updates of the plan to prevent a repeat of the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire, and to ensure the timely and effective response to the imminent threat of Red Flag Warning disasters and emergencies to the Lahaina area.

114. Upon information and belief, prior to August 8, 2023, BISSEN had failed

to coordinate, develop, and implement a comprehensive emergency management plan to submit to the administrator on the status and updates of the plan to prevent a repeat of the 2018 Kaua'ula wildfire, and to ensure the timely and effective response to the imminent threat of Red Flag Warning disasters and emergencies to the Lahaina area.

115. BISSEN's entire want of care, conscious indifference to consequences and failure to coordinate, develop, and implement a comprehensive emergency management plan to submit to the administrator on the status and updates of the plan to prevent a repeat of the 2018 Kaua'ula wildfire, and to ensure the timely and effective response to the imminent threat of Red Flag Warning disasters and emergencies to the Lahaina area violated HRS §127A-5(I), and was egregious and outrageous and constituted gross negligence, and/or recklessness pursuant to HRS §127A-9(a)(5).

116. Upon information and belief, BISSEN did not discover that anyone had died in the August 8, 2023 Lahaina wildfire, until August 9, 2023.

117. MEMA's failure to continuously communicate with the county agencies, including the Maui Fire Department and the Maui Police Department on August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, constituted negligence and gross negligence and was a substantial factor in the causation of the Plaintiffs' Class Plaintiffs' damages and personal injuries.

118. Pursuant to HRS §127A-5(g), BISSEN had the duty to establish a

procedure for the appointment and designation of stand-by officers during an emergency period, who shall serve in the event of the unavailability of the officers for whom they are standing-by.

119. Upon information and belief, on August 29, 2023, BISSEN admitted that, “I’m not sure who was in charge” of MEMA on August 8, 2023.

120. Upon information and belief, on August 29, 2023, BISSEN stated that he “thinks Herman Andaya, was in charge” even though he knew, or should have known, that ANDAYA was attending a Federal Emergency Management Agency conference on Oahu.

121. Upon information and belief, on August 29, 2023, BISSEN stated that “he didn’t know the ‘chain of command’ if Andaya was off island at the time.”

122. BISSEN’s entire want of care, conscious indifference to consequences and failure to perform his duty to establish a procedure for the appointment and designation of stand-by officers, including, but not limited to, his ignorance of who was in charge of MEMA, if anyone, in the absence of ANDAYA, violated HRS §127A-5(g) and was egregious and outrageous and constituted gross negligence and/or recklessness pursuant to HRS §127A-9(a)(5).

123. On, or about, August 27, 2023, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser’s observed that, “On the day of the tragedy that killed at least 115 people, first responders were

overwhelmed with reports of fallen power lines and snapped electric poles amid wind gusts of up to 60 mph, yet Maui County did not ask Hawaiian Electric to turn off the power during red flag conditions.”

124. Jon Heggie replied to the Honolulu Star-Advertiser in an interview and stated, “The county cannot ask independent, privately-owned companies, outside of the fire code and public resource codes, to alter their business practices, minus a violation of either of those (codes),”

125. On August 27, 2023, BISSEN and/or ANDAYA, knew that Jon Heggie’s public statement was false and misleading because, a) because HRS 127A-13(b)(3) expressly grants them the power to “shut off electrical power connections” to Lahaina, b) on August 8, 2023, BISSEN had issued an Emergency Proclamation, directing the Director of the Maui Emergency Management Agency to “shut off . . . the electric connections” for the Lahaina area which was not based on a “fire code and public resource codes” violation, and c) on August 24, 2023, BISSEN had filed a lawsuit alleging that the HEI Defendants were guilty of “gross negligence” for failure to “de-energize its power lines” during Red Flag Warning and High Wind Watch conditions without alleging any “fire code or public resource code” violation.

126. BISSEN and/or ANDAYA’s failure to correct Heggie’s false and misleading statement constitutes clear and convincing evidence of their gross

negligence and was in complete disregard to the rights of Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs entitling Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs to awards of punitive damages in amounts to be proven at trial.

127. BISSEN's and/or ANDAYA's violations of HRS §127A-5(a), HRS §127A-5(b), HRS §127A-5(c), HRS §127A-5(e), HRS §127A-5(g), HRS §127A-14(b) and/or HRS §127A-13(b)(3), were substantial factors in causing the Lahaina wildfire and in causing Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs to suffer damages and injury to persons including wrongful and forcible displacement, inconvenience, loss of use, relocation expenses, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income.

128. BISSEN's and /or ANDAYA's entire want of care, conscious indifference to consequences, and violations of HRS §127A-5(a), HRS §127A-5(b), HRS §127A-5(c), HRS §127A-5(e), HRS §127A-5(g), HRS §127A-14(b) and/or HRS §127A-13(b)(3) was egregious and outrageous and constituted gross negligence and/or recklessness under HRS §127A-9(a)(5).

129. Pursuant to HRS §127A-9(a)(5), on August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, BISSEN and ANDAYA were "persons engaged in emergency management functions" and are "civilly liable for the death of or injury to persons, or property damage, as a result of any act or omission in the course of the employment or duties under this chapter."

130. BISSEN and/or ANDAYA's violations of HRS Chapter 127A, as aforesaid constitutes gross negligence and/or recklessness in violation of HRS §127A-9(a)(5).

131. Pursuant to HRS §127A-8 (a) and (c), BISSEN and ANDAYA are "emergency workers" and are deemed to be "county employees" who "shall have the powers, duties, rights, and privileges of such in the performance of their duties."

132. HRS §127A-9(a)(5) provides that, in cases of gross negligence, or recklessness, BISSEN and ANDAYA, who were persons engaged in emergency management functions, are civilly liable for injury to Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs as a result of any act or omission in the course of the employment or duties under this chapter.

133. Pursuant to HRS §127A-9(a)(5), BISSEN and ANDAYA are civilly liable for gross negligence and/or recklessness and violations of HRS Chapter 127A, which are substantial factors in causing the Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs to suffer damages and injury to persons including wrongful and forcible displacement, inconvenience, loss of use, relocation expenses, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income, and MAUI is liable to Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs for their damages pursuant to HRS §127A-8(a) and (c), and the doctrine of *respondeat superior*.

134. BISSEN's and/or ANDAYA's violations of HRS Chapter 127A, constituted clear and convincing evidence of their gross negligence and/or recklessness, was outrageous and egregious and entirely wanting of care and indifferent to the probable consequences of their acts and/or omissions which was in complete disregard to the rights of Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs entitling Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs to an award of punitive damages.

135. BISSEN and/or ANDAYA are jointly and severally liable for the Plaintiffs' damages and punitive damages as described herein.

COUNT II - FAILURE TO POST FIRE WATCH
[Liability for Flare-Up Causing Lahaina Wildfire]
(On Behalf of Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs Against Defendant MFD)

136. Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference, all of the allegations set forth above, as though fully set forth herein.

137. On August 8, 2023, MFD was a department of MAUI, and its MFD's personnel were employees of MAUI.

138. On August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, MFD received multiple notices that Red Flag Warning and High Wind Watches were in effect, which meant the existence of imminent danger or threat of an emergency or disaster due to extreme and critical fire danger from August 6 through August 9, 2023, for the Lahaina area.

139. On August 8, 2023, at approximately 6:35 a.m., the high gusty winds

knocked down an energized MECO electric power line adjacent to Ku'ialua Street and Ho'okahua Place across from the Lahaina Intermediate School, about a mile mauka of the town of Lahaina. The energized electric power line fell on highly combustible vegetation accumulated in the MECO right-of-way beneath or adjacent to MECO's power lines which ignited a wildfire that spread rapidly to acres of the highly combustible vegetation which had accumulated on fallow land owned by PRIVATE LANDOWNERS.

140. MFD immediately responded to the wildfire and deemed it to be "100% contained" at 8:30 a.m., and declared it to be "extinguished" at 2:17 p.m. At 2:18 p.m. the entire fire team returned to the station for "rehabilitation."

141. MFD knew that Red Flag Warning conditions could cause the fire to rekindle and spread rapidly to hundreds of acres of dry and highly combustible vegetation on PRIVATE LANDOWNERS' lands and to Lahaina town which was downwind and makai of the burn site.

142. MFD knew that, during the Red Flag Warning and High Wind Watch conditions, the burn site posed an imminent danger or threat of an emergency or disaster to the residents and homes in Lahaina town, and that it was reasonable and necessary to post a fire watch to prevent and/or extinguish any flare-up to protect the people, homes, and businesses located in and around Lahaina town.

143. At approximately 2:55 p.m. on August 8, 2023, MFD received reports that high gusty winds had rekindled the fire at the end of the cul- de-sac of Ku'ialua Street which was spreading rapidly to the hundreds of acres of highly combustible vegetation accumulated on adjacent lands.

144. By the time MFD responded and arrived back at the site of the rekindled fire, at 3:04 p.m. MFD encountered smoke and bad visibility. MFD crew members stated that they had never felt winds like that before.

145. By then, the rekindled fire had already spread to the highly combustible vegetation accumulated on adjacent lands, and MFD was unable to contain the wildfire, which had spread rapidly downwind and was already burning houses and buildings mauka of Lahaina town. At approximately 3:17 p.m. the wildfire jumped the Bypass at Kelawea Mauku Makai Park and started to burn the houses and buildings located in Lahaina town.

146. The Lahaina wildfire continued to spread rapidly makai and eventually burned and devastated the entire town of Lahaina and surrounding areas.

147. By the morning of August 9, 2023, the entire town of Lahaina had been destroyed.

148. On September 20, 2023, a Maui firefighter admitted that “when we left [the scene of the fire] we were confident it was out, but obviously we were wrong.”

149. MFD's failure to post a fire watch at the burn site during Red Flag Warning and High Wind Watch conditions was a substantial factor in the uncontrollable flare-up which spread rapidly to hundreds of acres of dry and highly combustible vegetation on PRIVATE LANDOWNERS' lands, which eventually burned down Lahaina town and displaced thousands of residents, including Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs. If MFD had posted a fire watch at the burn site, it could have extinguished the flare-up and prevented the fire from burning out of control and destroying Lahaina town.

150. MFD prematurely left the burn scene and its failure to post a fire watch during Red Flag Warning and High Wind Watch conditions was negligent, grossly negligent, and/or reckless, and a substantial factor in causing the Lahaina wildfire and displacement of thousands of residents, including Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs.

151. MFD's failure to post a fire watch during Red Flag and High Wind \Watch conditions was a substantial factor in causing the Plaintiffs' and Class Plaintiffs' damages and injury to persons including wrongful and forcible displacement, inconvenience, loss of use, relocation expenses, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income. damages,

152. MFD is an agency or department of MAUI, and the fire fighters are

employees of MAUI which is liable for indemnification under the doctrine of *respondeat superior* for the negligence, gross negligence, and/or recklessness of MFD employees which caused or contributed to the Lahaina wildfire, thereby rendering Plaintiffs' and Class Plaintiffs' residences inhabitable, and was a substantial factor in causing the Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs to suffer damages and injury to person including wrongful and forcible displacement, inconvenience, loss of use, relocation expenses, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income.

COUNT III - COUNTY OF MAUI

**[Indemnity Under Respondeat Superior and HRS Chapter 127A]
(On Behalf of Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs Against Defendant MAUI)**

153. Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference, all of the allegations set forth above, as though fully set forth herein.

141. BISSEN was directly responsible for emergency management within the county, including the organization, administration, and operation of MEMA. HRS-§127A-5(a)

155. MEMA performed emergency management functions within the territorial limits of the county of Maui, including coordination of all emergency management plans within the county. HRS-§127A-5(b)

156. MAUI is responsible for the establishment, naming, and operation of

MEMA, under the mayor's direction. HRS-§127A-5(c)

157. At all times, BISSEN and ANDAYA were "emergency workers" during emergencies or disasters and engaged in carrying out the duties set forth in HRS Chapter 127A, and their rights in or under the laws relating to indemnification under the doctrine of respondeat superior, shall not be adversely affected. HRS §127A-8(a)(b)

158. At all times, BISSEN and ANDAYA were engaged in the performance of duty for the county of Maui, pursuant to HRS Chapter 127A, and are deemed county employees with the powers, duties, rights, and privileges of such in the performance of their duties, including indemnification under the doctrine of respondeat superior. HRS §127A-8(c).

159. The county of Maui is civilly liable for injury to Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs as a result of BISSEN's and ANDAYA's gross negligence, and/or recklessness in the course of their employment or duties pursuant to HRS Chapter 127A, including damages suffered by Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs for wrongful and forcible displacement and damages and personal injury, loss of use, relocation costs, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income. HRS §127A-9(a)(5).

COUNT IV - HEI DEFENDANTS
[Failure to Preemptively Deenergize Lines, Clear

Rights-of-Way and Defective Infrastructure]
(On Behalf of Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs Against HEI Defendants)

160. Plaintiffs hereby incorporates by reference and realleges each and every paragraph above as though fully set forth herein.

HEI Defendants' Negligent Failure to Preemptively De-energize Power lines

161. On August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, HEI Defendants received multiple notices that the NWS had issued [multiple] Red Flag Warnings and High Wind Watches for the Lahaina area, which warned of an imminent danger or threat of an emergency or disaster caused by high winds knocking down energized power lines and igniting the dry and highly combustible vegetation accumulated in its right-of-ways which would spread rapidly cause a catastrophic wildfire.

162. Based on the 2018 Kaua'ula wildfire, HEI Defendants also knew that extended drought, high winds, high temperatures, and low humidity existed in Lahaina, and that it was reasonably foreseeable and/or highly probable that its high voltage overhead transmission lines could fall and ignite dry and highly combustible vegetation accumulated in its rights-of-way which would spread rapidly to hundreds of acres of adjacent fallow agricultural land owned by PRIVATE LANDOWNERS and other lands in an around Lahaina and cause a catastrophic wildfire which could devastate Lahaina town.

163. On August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, HEI Defendants knew that preemptively de-

energizing its power lines was an effective way of preventing a catastrophic wildfire during Red Flag Warning and High Wind Watches conditions and protecting residents' homes from destruction and its residents from forcible displacement. .

164. HEI Defendants' knowledge of the 2018 Kaua'ula wildfire and Red Flag Warnings and High Wind Watch conditions imposed a duty on the HEI Defendants to preemptively de-energize its power lines in the Lahaina area to prevent downed power lines from igniting dry and highly combustible vegetation accumulated in its rights-of-way in order to prevent a catastrophic wildfire from destroying Lahaina town.

165. On August 8, 2023, high gusty winds caused a power line owned by HEI Defendants to fall and ignite the dry highly combustible vegetation accumulated in the right-of-way which spread rapidly to hundreds of acres of dry vegetation on land owned by PRIVATE LANDOWNERS and other lands owned by others which created a catastrophic wildfire which destroyed thousands of homes and buildings in Lahaina town and displaced thousands of residents, including Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs.

166. On August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, HEI Defendants' failure to preemptively de-energize their electric power lines in the Lahaina area during Red Flag Warning conditions was the cause of an energized power line to fall and ignite dry highly combustible vegetation accumulated in its right-of-way which spread rapidly to

hundreds of acres of adjacent highly combustible vegetation accumulated on land owned by PRIVATE LANDOWNERS and other landowners thereby causing a catastrophic wildfire which destroyed 3,800 homes and buildings in Lahaina and caused thousands of residents to be displaced or rendered homeless, including Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs..

167. On August 6, 7, & 8, 2023, the HEI Defendants failure to preemptively de-energize their electric power lines in the Lahaina area during Red Flag Warning conditions was negligent and/or grossly negligent and was a substantial factor in causing the Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs damages and injury to persons including wrongful and forcible displacement, inconvenience, loss of use, relocation costs, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income.

**HEI Defendants Negligent Failure to Clear the Highly
Combustible Vegetation Accumulated in its Right-of Way**

168. Based on the 2018 Kaua'ula wildfire, HEI Defendants knew that the dry and highly combustible vegetation accumulated on its rights-of-way could be ignited by a downed energized power line which would spread rapidly to the adjacent land and cause a catastrophic wildfire which would destroy thousands of homes and business in Lahaina resulting in thousands of residents to be displaced and/or rendered homeless.

169. The HEI Defendants had a duty to use reasonable care to manage and/or clear the dry and highly combustible vegetation accumulated on their right-of-way to prevent against ignition of a fire loss to adjacent properties, including the homes and buildings in Lahaina.

170. HEI Defendants failed to regularly manage and clear the dry and highly combustible vegetation in its rights-of-way in the Lahaina area and allowed this vegetation to accumulate directly beneath and adjacent to its energized power lines which created an unreasonable and highly dangerous risk of wildfire condition.

171. On August 8, 2023, high gusty winds caused an energized power line owned by HEI Defendants to fall and ignite the dry highly combustible vegetation accumulated in the right-of-way located at Ku'ialua Street and Ho'okahua Place which spread rapidly to hundreds of acres of dry vegetation accumulated on adjacent land owned by PRIVATE LANDOWNERS and other landowners.

172. HEI Defendants' failure to reasonably manage and clear the dry and highly combustible vegetation accumulated on its rights-of-way in the Lahaina area was negligent and/or grossly negligent and/or a violation of HRS §132-8, and a substantial factor in causing the Lahaina wildfire which displaced thousands of residents, including Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs, and caused them to suffer damages and injury to persons including wrongful and forcible displacement, inconvenience,

loss of use, relocation expenses, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income.

HEI Defendants Negligently Designed, Maintained and/or Installed Power Line Causing Them to Fall and Ignite the Lahaina Wildfire

173. At all times prior to the Lahaina wildfire, HEI Defendants owned or controlled rights-of-way and designed, constructed, and owned infrastructure, including poles and electric power lines, which it used to transmit electricity to the residents and businesses located in the Lahaina area.

174. HEI Defendants had a duty to properly design, maintain, and repair the electric poles and high voltage transmission lines, and other equipment associated with their transmission of electricity, including the installation of a PSPS system, to prevent fallen power lines from igniting wildfires and to protect the residents of Lahaina.

175. Based on the 2018 Kaua'ula wildfire, HEI Defendants knew or should have known that their electric poles and high voltage transmission lines were defective and/or otherwise unfit or inadequate to safely transmit electricity in the Lahaina area during Red Flag Warning and High Wind Watch conditions.

176. HEI Defendants' failure to design, maintain and continuously upkeep their utility infrastructure, including power lines and poles and installation of a PSPS system, was negligent and grossly negligent and/or a violation of HRS §132-8, and a substantial factor in causing the Lahaina wildfire which caused thousands of residents,

including Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs to suffer damages and injury to persons including wrongful and forcible displacement, inconvenience, loss of use, relocation expenses, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income.

177. HEI Defendants' conduct, as aforesaid, was intentional and in complete disregard to the rights of the Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs entitling Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs to an award of punitive damages.

178. HEI Defendants are jointly and severally liable for the Plaintiffs' damages and punitive damages.

179. On August 27, 2023, the HEI Defendants acknowledged that their downed electrical equipment ignited the August 8, 2023, Lahaina morning fire.

COUNT V - NEGLIGENT LANDOWNERS
[Failure to Manage Highly Combustible Vegetation to
Prevent Wildfires From Spreading to Adjoining Properties]
(On Behalf of Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs Against
Defendants PRIVATE LANDOWNERS)

180. Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference, all of the allegations set forth above, as though fully set forth herein.

181. The Lahaina wildfire scorched about 3,000 acres of dry and highly combustible vegetation and grasses growing and accumulating on fallow agricultural lands, owned by, or adjoining lands owned by PRIVATE LANDOWNERS. The fires

which burned on lands owned by PRIVATE LANDOWNERS spread rapidly to the Lahaina town and eventually destroyed or rendered uninhabitable almost all of the residences in Lahaina town, including residences in which Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs resided.

182. Based on the 2018 Kaua’ula wildfire, PRIVATE LANDOWNERS knew that high gusty winds posed an imminent threat and danger of wildfire to adjoining landowners and Lahaina residents caused by wildfire rapidly spreading over hundred of acres of dry and highly combustible vegetation and grasses growing and accumulating on their fallow agricultural lands in Lahaina, Maui.

183. PRIVATE LANDOWNERS had a duty to prevent huge uncontrollable wildfires’ spreading rapidly over hundreds of acres of highly combustible vegetation accumulating on their lands and to protect adjacent landowners and inhabitants, including landowners and inhabitants of Lahaina town, from being destroyed by wildfire.

184. In addition to, and coextensive with, their common law duties regarding the management of their property, PRIVATE LANDOWNERS were all times relevant, required to comply with HRS. §132-8, which requires all property owners to keep their premises “reasonably safe from loss of life or injury to persons or property by fire.”

185. PRIVATE LANDOWNERS negligently failed to properly manage or

clear the dry and highly combustible vegetation accumulating on their lands which was a substantial factor in causing the Lahaina wildfire to spread rapidly and destroy Lahaina town, including approximately 2,800 residences and buildings and displacing 12,000 residents, including Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs.

186. PRIVATE LANDOWNERS' failure to clear and/or manage the dry combustible vegetation accumulated on hundreds of acres of fallow agricultural lands was negligent, gross negligence, recklessness, and a violation of HRS §132-8, and was a substantial factor in causing the Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs to suffer damages and injury to persons including wrongful and forcible displacement, inconvenience, loss of use, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of livelihood, and loss of past and future income.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs seek judgment against all Defendants, jointly and severally, for damages in amounts according to proof at trial and to other and further relief, as follows:

1. Confirmation that this lawsuit is properly maintainable as a class action;.
2. Appointment of Plaintiffs as Class Representatives for Class Plaintiffs;
3. Appointment of counsel for Plaintiffs as Class Counsel for Class Plaintiffs;

4. Damages awarded to Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs for injury to persons including wrongful and forcible displacement, inconvenience, loss of use, relocation expenses, severe mental anguish, depression, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, and loss of past and future income, according to proof at trial;

5. Attorney fees and costs;

6. Punitive damages;

7. Prejudgment and post judgment interest; and

8. Such other and further relief the Court may deem just and proper.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawaii, July ___, 2024.

/s/ Samuel P. King, Jr.

SAMUEL P. KING, JR.

ROY Y. YEMPUKU

RUSSEL MYRICK (Pro Hac Vice pending)

Attorneys for Plaintiffs, Individually, and in Their
Representative Capacities on Behalf of Class
Plaintiffs